Sociological Critical Thinking Exercise

Sociologists in the twenty-first century owe a debt of intellectual gratitude to early thinkers and pioneers such as Émile Durkheim, Karl Marx, W.E.B DuBois, Jane Addams, Ida B. Wells Barnet, Auguste Comte and Max Weber among others. To learn about many of the thinkers listed in Chapter 1, of your text book Sociology in a Changing World visit www.sociosite.net/topics/sociologists.php, or other related sites. Choose four of the theorists offered and visit the links associated with them; read some of their original works and biographies. In no more than 6 but no less than 4 pages answer the following questions for each theorist: One sentence answers are NOT acceptable for this assignment. Use complete, well thought out sentences; watch your grammar and spelling. For citations, please use the MLA style for handwriting and citations. (This assignment is worth 50 points towards your final grade).

a. When did the thinker live? What important historical events were occurring during this time? Did any of these historical events shape his or her sociological imagination and views on society?

b. After reading some of the original works, how would you summarize this person's perspectives? Which of the three main sociological perspectives-functionalism, conflict, or symbolic interactionism-would you say this thinker is most associated with? Why?

c. What facts did you find most interesting about this person in his or her life story or sociological contributions?

d. How do the ideas of this thinker compare and contrast with your other selection? Which of the two thinkers' ideas did you like the most? Why?